REMARKS

I.   Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 4, 14, 16, 17, 21, 23, 24 and 28-31 are amended herein. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments would be found by referring to, for example, FIG. 7; page 17, line 3 through page 18, line 2; and page 14, line 13 through page 18, line 27 of the specification of this present application.

Claims 1-31 are rejected.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-31 are currently pending in this application.

II.   Response to the § 102 rejections

In item 5 on page 2 of the current Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-5, 14-18, 21-25, and 28-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,603,488 to Humpleman et al (hereinafter: "Humpleman"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 as amended specifically recites "a menu storage unit storing characteristic menu information corresponding to applications, the **characteristic menu information** configured to be **composed of key codes serving as commands in applications**". (Emphasis Added). It is respectfully submitted that Humpleman fails to disclose, teach or suggest such features.

Instead, Humpleman is directed to a system that uses a Web browser to provide a user with interfaces for controlling devices in a home network (see column 4, lines 42-47) wherein Humpleman provides home device buttons 712 such as Dads TV and Jims DVD. See, for example, FIGS. 8 & 10. In Humpleman, when a user selects the home device button 712 for Dad's TV, the session manager displays the top-level home page 804 for the respective home device in a frame 706. See, for example, FIGS. 8 & 10, and column 16, lines 4-9 of Humpleman. It is respectfully that the home device buttons 712 are a previously set menu, which are displayed on frame 706. However, this menu of the **home device buttons 712 is not composed of keycodes**.

That is, all the features described in Humpleman operate in response to the position of a mouse curser on a screen. For example, column 8, lines 14-15, explains that a user clicks on various buttons to adjust parameters of a television. Additionally, to activate all of the features

shown in figures 5A, 6-8, and 10-13, a user must move a mouse curser over a particular location of a graphical user interface. Because Humpleman only describes functions that operate based on a user pointing and clicking, all the features described in Humpleman are dependant upon the position of a mouse pointer.

In contrast, Applicants specifically recite in claim 1 how "**characteristic menu information**" are "configured to be **composed of key codes serving as commands in applications**". That is, in the configuration unique to Applicants invention, an existing application can be operated from the menu of the present invention only by preparing characteristic menu information composed of keycodes without making any modification in the existing application.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences in claims 2, 6, 7-21 and 28-31 over Humpleman.

Further, claim 3, as amended specifically recites "if the discriminated application for which said menu information exists is being executed, **at least one of the plurality of applications is selected from the executing discriminated application and activated**". It is respectfully submitted that Humpleman fails to disclose, teach or suggest such features.

In the Office Action, it appears that the Examiner believes that the feature of how at least one of the plurality of applications is selected from the executing discriminated application and activated is disclosed in Humpleman. See, for example, page 3, and lines 1-6 of the current Office Action. However, a review of the sections cited by the Examiner and a complete reading of Humpleman reveals that Humpleman fails to disclose the features of how at least one of the plurality of applications is selected from the executing discriminated application and activated.

Instead, Humpleman merely discloses how a menu corresponding to only the device button 712 is displayed on the Frame 706. In contrast, Applicants invention provides that an application for which the menu application is set is promptly activated, thereby permitting a smooth operation. Therefore, the feature of how at least one of the plurality of applications is selected from the executing discriminated application and activated, is absent in Humpleman.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 3, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences in claims 16 and 23 over Humpleman.

Moreover, claim 4 specifically recites how a "menu development unit **displays** a **predetermined menu** on the screen **if an application which does not store said menu information is being executed**". That is, in Applicants invention, a predetermined menu is displayed when an application for which the characteristic menu information is not stored is activated. Thus, in Applicants invention, the information processor can be controlled by displaying the predetermined menu even without an application for which menu information is set. It is respectfully submitted that Humpleman fails to disclose, teach or suggest such features.

More specifically, Humpleman fails to disclose, teach or suggest the feature of displaying "a **predetermined menu** on the screen **if an application which does not store said menu information is being executed**".

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 4, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences in claims 5, 7-13, 24 and 25 over Humpleman.

III.   Response to the § 103 rejections

In item 6 on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 6, 19, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman. Additionally, in item 7 on page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 7-13, 20, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman in view of Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 1-100620 ("Higuchi"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Regarding claims 6, 19, and 26, as explained above, Humpleman fails to disclose, teach or suggest "a menu storage unit storing characteristic menu information corresponding to applications, the **characteristic menu information** configured to be **composed of key codes**

serving as commands in applications". As such, Humpleman does not render claims 6, 19, and 26 unpatentable at least because Humpleman does not teach or suggest all the features in each of these claims.

Regarding claims 7-13, 20 and 27, it is respectfully submitted that nothing has been found in Higuchi that is comparable to the feature discussed above that Humpleman does not teach. As such, these claims are patentable over Humpleman in view of Higuchi at least because Humpleman in view of Higuchi does not teach or suggest all the features of these claims.

IV.   CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.
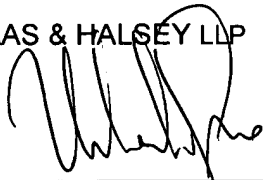
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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